

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

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JOHN McLELLAN, Editor.

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NOTICE.

When you send in your subscription always state whether renewal or new subscriber.

When you renew from another post office give former address as well.

When change of address is desired be sure to give former address.

The Secretary of Agriculture's report shows a most astonishing development in beet-sugar production. The quantity produced is more than five times as great as nine years ago.

St. Louis is said to be going dry at the rate of 300 less saloons a year. Even at this rate the newest born baby cannot expect to see the "last saloon" disappear in St. Louis in its lifetime.

The Indians say that they will give the full vote of their delegation to Vice President Fairbanks, but hardly hope to see him nominated. That Methodist experience was a stunner.

California rejoices over the largest lemon crop ever known in the history of the State. They are now talking about being able to send 600,000 carloads of lemons out of California this season.

The Czar has a summary way of dealing with the Bryans and Tillmans in the Duma. He secures harmony by sending them to work in the Siberian mines. Napoleon used to conscript them into the army.

"Little Bright Eyes" is receiving very unsympathetic treatment by the courts. She is being compelled to answer to the ugly charge of grand larceny. To the Spiritualists this must seem very "gross and material."

New York has been "good" now for two Sundays, but the experience has struck thousands of her people as more dreadful than the blizzard. What is the use of living in New York, if one has to be as decent as a "hayseed?"

There is a suspicion that the failure of the Mergenthaler Basket Machine Company is not as utter as it is represented. It is possible that the very acute managers are trying to freeze out the smaller stockholders, who were induced to invest by the liberal advertising in the newspapers.

While David B. Hill is still as much of a Democrat as he always was, he does not find his peculiar style of Democracy to harmonize with any of the rest of the party, and resisted all persuasions to be present at the meeting of the Democratic National Committee at Washington.

The experiments of the Belgian police with dogs are not satisfactory. They are found to be of no use in thickly-populated districts, but in the country they are excellent aids to the patrol. They are trained to regard a man in uniform as a friend and everybody else as an enemy, particularly anyone lying down or in a crouching position.

A decided sensation has been created by a fraud indictment found against the great mail-order house of Sears, Roebuck & Company. The first count is as to a sale of paint which Sears, Roebuck & Company claimed to contain pure white lead made in their own factory, but it is charged that Sears, Roebuck & Company have no paint factory, and that their paint, which is of a very poor grade, contains no white lead whatever. The second count is that jewelry represented to contain pearls and sapphires had neither.

One of the astonishing things in human history is the invariableness with which men blame some one else for their bad luck. In 1861 the Southern planters went to war, because they had bankrupted themselves by going in debt for high-priced slaves to pick cheap cotton, and they blamed it on the "Abolitionists." In 1893 the people out West were in bad financial shape, because they had overproduced silver and wheat, and they laid the blame on the Republicans. In 1907 the "get-rich-quick" fellows in New York and elsewhere burst their own bubbles by their greed, and they blame Roosevelt for it.

A most important ally in the temperance cause has appeared in Dr. Czaray, of Heidelberg, Germany, one of the greatest of living authorities on cancer. He strongly urges a simple, clean life as a preventive of this dread disease. He advises that the skin be kept scrupulously clean and the rich food and alcoholic liquors be strictly avoided. He says that there are 40,000 deaths annually from cancer in Germany, and a large portion of this is due to the drink habit. The X-rays and radium have shown some value as curatives, but their precise worth remains to be determined.

DEVELOPMENT IN PORTO RICO.

On the whole, the reports from Porto Rico are very encouraging. Sugar is pushing far to the front as the principal crop. The increase in production in the last five years amounts to 200 per cent, and at present all the land suitable for cane is under cultivation, giving employment to a great many people and representing an investment of millions of dollars. The exports to the United States have leaped up from a value of \$4,695,104 in 1901 to \$14,184,319 last year. Nearly all the sugar comes to the United States.

Tobacco lands have risen rapidly in value since the introduction of American methods of cultivation, and in five years the number of cigars sent to the United States has increased from 11,000,000 to 3,000,000,000. Spain continues to take the greater part of the leaf, stems and trimmings.

The coffee business, however, shows a strong decline since the United States came into possession of the island. The methods of coffee cultivation are antiquated and uneconomical, and it is claimed that when improved methods are introduced coffee will become a more profitable crop. It can be raised at a small outlay of capital, and there is a great amount of territory in the mountainous regions suitable for it. The Government has established an experiment station, which it is expected will do a great work in introducing better methods. The coffee tree bears for ten or fifteen years, and continues for 10 or 15 years. There are three principal grades. The first consists of large, perfect beans, which are picked out by hand and are in great demand in Europe. The second consists of smaller beans, which are prepared with care, well cleaned and sorted by hand, and the third is the round bean coffee, which is a still smaller bean, tho it is a good quality and is used to mix with the better grades. The Cuban market takes all of the inferior grades, but the better grades have not found the sale in the United States that was expected, and the sales have fallen off in three years from 2,500,000 pounds to 303,000. In 1904 France took 13,000,000 pounds of Porto Rican coffee, but less than 5,000,000 pounds in 1906.

A large trade has developed in citrus fruits, so it is estimated that there are about 7,000 acres under cultivation with the orange and lemon trees introduced from Florida and California. All these plantations are owned and managed by Americans. These have generally planted the citrus trees on their coffee plantations to give shade to the coffee trees.

The greatest trouble that the growers have to contend with is the wretched roads. Owing to the difficulty of getting the fruit to market, fully 40 per cent of the entire orange crop was left to decay upon the trees. It is hoped that Sicilian lemons can be successfully raised, and if so will prove a source of wealth. The specimens so far grown appear equal to the best grade of Sicily lemons.

Pineapple culture is increasing, and promises to be an important industry.

Our trade with Porto Rico is increasing at a satisfactory rate, and particularly in shoes. The natives were quick to buy the American shoe, which they recognized as superior to those they had been obtaining from Spain. They are buying a much better grade of shoes, and where three or four years ago it was difficult to sell shoes at as much as \$3, now there is a great demand for the \$4 shoe and even those costing \$5.

THE PARCELS POST BATTLE.

Indications multiply that there will be a hot fight in Congress over carrying out the strong recommendations of the Postmaster-General in favor of the parcels post plan.

The following is the tariff that the Postmaster-General proposes for packages weighing less than one pound:

	Cents.
Over 1 ounce and not exceeding 2	1
Over 2 ounces and not exceeding 4	2
Over 4 ounces and not exceeding 5	3
Over 5 ounces and not exceeding 6	4
Over 6 ounces and not exceeding 7	5
Over 7 ounces and not exceeding 8	6
Over 8 ounces and not exceeding 9	7
Over 9 ounces and not exceeding 10	8
Over 10 ounces and not exceeding 11	9
Over 11 ounces and not exceeding 12	10
Over 12 ounces and not exceeding 13	11
Over 13 ounces and not exceeding 14	12
Over 14 ounces and not exceeding 15	13
Over 15 ounces and not exceeding 16	14
Over 16 ounces and not exceeding 17	15
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Over 92 ounces and not exceeding 93	91
Over 93 ounces and not exceeding 94	92
Over 94 ounces and not exceeding 95	93
Over 95 ounces and not exceeding 96	94
Over 96 ounces and not exceeding 97	95
Over 97 ounces and not exceeding 98	96
Over 98 ounces and not exceeding 99	97
Over 99 ounces and not exceeding 100	98

The Postmaster-General tries to disarm the opposition of the country dealers by recommending a special parcels-post system on the rural-delivery routes for packages originating in the towns from which the routes start. He suggests a rate of five cents for the first pound and two cents for each additional pound or fractional part to 11 pounds. For packages of two ounces or less, one cent; over two ounces and up to four ounces, two cents; over four ounces and up to eight, three cents; and over 12 ounces and up to 15, five cents. He argues that this will give the farmers in the country all advantages that people in the cities enjoy in the way of the delivery of goods, that it will increase the trade of the local merchants, and put them even in a better position than the retail merchants in the cities which have to employ their own delivery wagons. They can deliver goods up to the weight of 11 pounds for 25 cents, while the wholesale merchant would have to pay in the city 12 cents a pound, of \$1.32 per 11 pounds, in order to reach the same customers.

S. R. Miles, President of the National Hardware Dealers' Association, and J. W. Kilpatrick, President of the Georgia Wholesale Merchants' Association, are out very strongly against the whole parcels-post system, and have written long arguments against it which are being generally circulated thru the country. The Spokane grocers denounce the parcels post, and say that the whole mercantile Northwest is being aroused against the plan. They claim that a one-cent letter rate would be a greater boon to the patrons of the Post Office.

We can assure our friends, the Democrats, that they have made no mistake in selecting Denver for the place of their National Convention. Denver gave the National Encampment a royal entertainment, and we have no doubt that the Democrats will find everything as agreeable there as did the comrades.

JAIL AND GALLOWES.

The Appeal to Reason, the Socialist paper published at Girard, Kan., gets out a "Jail and Gallows" edition which is a particularly vicious number. It is on the assumption that all the good men have been sent to jail at one time or another in the world's history, while all the bad men have been left free. The logical inference from its inflammatory articles on the "martyrs" of the past, from those of the Haymarket in Chicago back to Socrates, is that only one man in about 100,000 has ever been right or true, and he has been put in prison or hanged, while the remaining 99,999 have been grossly and wickedly wrong.

This is so absolutely contradictory of human reason as to carry its own refutation. While society makes blunders and mistakes and occasionally commits cruelties in the name of justice, yet society represents the very best that mankind at that stage were capable of. It represents, it always has represented, the best thought, the highest desire for order, human development and the rights of person and property. If there are "wrong" or "injustices" in the constitution of society, the way to correct these is by teaching proper doctrines and gradually bringing the community up to a perception of a still higher order of morality and right. This is what the schools, churches, fraternal societies and other organizations are laboring so hard for to-day. For any one man to set himself up as entirely right and the remainder of the 100,000 wholly wrong, and to come into active rebellion against them, is criminal in the highest degree. The men who take the law into their own hands and invoke upon themselves the condemnation of justice have very rarely been men whose lives and relations to others have been such as to commend them to healthy public opinion. They have deserved the punishment they have received for their absolute disregard of the rights of others and their criminal acts toward them.

All good men in this country and Europe have been constantly trying to perfect the methods of justice and to make laws which would insure the prevalence of right to every man. Of course, we are far from having attained an ideal condition of society, but we are working forward toward it as fast as the schools and churches can lead us. There is absolutely no excuse for any man bringing down upon himself the punishment of the law. The men who do so, instead of being benefactors of their species, are ninetenths of the time actuated by diseased vanity and a desire for notoriety.

CLASSIFICATION OF WIDOWS.

Can any right-thinking man see a justification for the pension laws between two classes of widows? It is something repugnant to our Christian civilization. Pagan and semi-civilized Nations recognize many different kinds of union between the sexes, but our church and our civilization has never recognized but one, and that was the holiest and highest, a complete marriage. Every church in Christendom recognizes that a second marriage entered into after the first partner had died, is in every respect precisely like the first marriage. There is nowhere a shadow of difference. The common law of the land is as firm in this respect as the religious law. The very silence is expressive. There is nowhere a syllable or suggestion of difference between one and the other. Only the pension laws establish a variance. Not only is this absolutely wrong in principle as discrediting marriage, but it is absolutely wrong from a practical point of view.

A woman who marries a man in middle life has much less prospect of happiness and advancement from it. The husband has lost the eagerness of youth and has far less of prospects for his future. He has begun to be burdened with the cares of life, and he has probably a family, which she must help rear and give to it all the affection that the real mother, bound by the ties of nature, could give the children. Then, alas! too often her husband's powers begin to fall under the disabilities incurred in the service, and she has to become the faithful nurse and spend much of her years in assiduous attention upon him. It is possible that she has to even support him during his last failing years as he is traveling down the slope of life toward the grave. It is cruel injustice to deny her a pension because the date of her marriage is somewhat later than that of her predecessor. She has given all of her sacred womanhood to the marriage, and she deserves all the consideration from the Government that it can give her.

The Crop Reporting Board of the Agricultural Department reports, under date of Dec. 3, that the area seeded to winter wheat is about 1.9 per cent less than that of last year, which means a decrease of 596,000 acres. The condition of winter wheat Dec. 1 was 91.1, which is below the 10-year average of 93. It may be that the condition will improve before the next report, but at present it would indicate that the crop next year will be somewhat smaller than this year. The wheat in Kansas shows up best, with a condition of 95, while that in Ohio is poorest, with a condition of 84.

The law of separation of Church and State has now been in operation in France for two years. There has been disappointment mingled with gratification on all sides. Nothing has had the result as predicted. The Roman Catholics have not seen anything like the storm of denunciation they expected over the spoliation of the Church's vast property. The Church, on the other hand, has gained a very desirable independence, and the priests, freed from many secular connections and emburances, have more time and energy to bestow upon spiritual work and bringing into the fold the lukewarm. The Bishops generally declare that from a purely religious point of view the condition of their dioceses has distinctly improved. The enemies of the Church see that the crushing blow they aimed has not more than staggered her.

DEATH OF PAST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SHUTE.

Comrade Charles H. Shute, one of the best-known members of the National Encampment, and who for many years kept the campfires of the Order burning brightly in Louisiana, died suddenly at his home town, Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 26. He was born in Concord, N. H., in 1838, and May 17, 1861, enlisted in Co. B, 2d N. H. He rose thru all the grades to First Lieutenant, and was mustered out June 21, 1864. He took up his residence in New Orleans, and became prominent as a business man and banker. At the time of his death he was addressing a class of Christian Endeavorers. His last words were, "You must put your whole faith in God." Commander P. H. Boyle, of the Department of Louisiana and Mississippi, has issued a very touching general order, expressing the intense sorrow of the Department at the loss of one who was so much to it. The order is headed with the last words of Comrade Shute, and Commander Boyle has most appropriately headed his order with these, He says:

"Our beloved comrade was essentially a soldier, and a soldier of that high order that battles only, but ever, for the right."

"To him love of country was second only to love of God, and next to love of country came his love for the comrade who served that country in its hour of peril."

"The words quoted at the head of this order were the last uttered by our comrade, and were addressed to a meeting of his young friends in his home town."

"To us they come as a final message from one whom it was a privilege to know and an honor to call our comrade."

"To many weary comrades in this Department these words will come like the cheering words of a great commander to men in line of battle."

"From them they may gather courage, take heart, and pressing onward, know that God is right, and that in the final ending of all things God is right and must prevail."

NATIONAL WATERWAYS SCHEME.

The scheme of the Inland Waterways Commission is to construct a network of canals, river improvements and channel deepening which will unite the Great Lakes with the rivers of the Mississippi Valley and thus secure an unbroken water communication from Hudson Bay to the Gulf. "A Western inner passage" is contemplated, which will connect the mouth of the Mississippi with all the ports from New Orleans to the Rio Grande. "The Eastern inner passage" will connect the Atlantic seaboard by the way of the Suwanee River, and a canal across Florida with Mobile and the Mississippi River. The upper Mississippi will be connected with the Red River of the North and this in turn with Hudson Bay. Chicago will be connected with the Mississippi by the extension of the present drainage canal down the Illinois River. The Ohio, Allegheny, Monongahela, Cumberland, Tennessee, Arkansas and Red Rivers are all to be improved. It is not expected that this will all be done at once, but that there will be a start made upon the most pressing piece of work and the others follow. The total cost of the work will be enormous, but some of the Commission favor beginning it at once in the most important districts, and letting these help pay the way for the others.

The laws regarding dentistry in Austria are very strict and sharply enforced. The dentists are divided into two classes, one class only being allowed to make artificial teeth and the various appliances used in dental work. It is recognized that the American dentists are the first in the world, and very many students come to this country every year from Austria to study in our schools.

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CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA.

The reports from Russia state that the Duma is meeting its greatest difficulties in the solution of the land problem. The dispatches give us no inkling as to the plans before the Duma for the solution of what has always been in every country the most vital of questions. It is impossible to understand how the question can be satisfactorily settled in Russia by the Duma alone, since it has required terrific wars in the rest of Europe to bring land ownership into even such an imperfect state as it now is in the various countries. The matter of land ownership was the real cause of the French Revolution, and the terrible wars which convulsed Europe for a quarter of a century. The first marvelous successes of the French armies were due to the fact that they went as deliverers, and were welcomed everywhere by the people as rescuers from the intolerable hardships of the ownership of land by the nobility. The first act of the Revolutionists was to confiscate the lands of the Church and nobility and re-distribute them among the people. This program was carried out wherever the French maintained their control for any length of time. The only way in which the Prussians could be induced to rise against the French was due to the inspiration of Baron Von Hardenburg, who succeeded in getting the nobility to sell their lands to the Government upon payments extending over 40 years. The actual owners and tillers of the land were then given 40 years' time in which to pay for those lands at the same prices the Government had paid for them. Being then the owners of their own farms and homes, the Prussians had something to fight for, and they rose en masse to drive the French from Germany.

Some solution of this kind is the only possible one for the Russian situation, and the question is whether the landholders are reduced to such straits as to be willing to part with their estates at a fair price, and whether there is thrift and providence enough in the Russian peasantry to take advantage of this scheme as the German peasantry did in 1811.

It would seem that the most unfortunate part of the situation in Russia is that the peasantry has never been educated into the knowledge and feeling of private ownership of land, and have consequently none of the land hunger which characterizes the Teutonic and Celtic races. The education of the Russian peasant has been communistic, socialistic, to the last degree. Even when a serf, he was a member of the "mir," or commune, which had the right of occupancy of certain stretches of land which were portioned out annually to the different members of the community. This process was in the highest degree injurious to the land, since no man ever thought of improving his holding, and when it was worn out he simply got an assignment to a richer piece. So far, all suggestions as to selling land to the peasants has met with indignant surprise and resistance. The peasants have no thought of buying land; they want it given to them, as has been done thru all of Russia's history. The followers of Henry George could, if they wished, send an excellent object lesson in Russia where private ownership of land is of the rarest occurrence. Even the nobility are not supposed to own land, but its use is granted to them by the Czar, and they derive their immense incomes from what they can squeeze out of the peasants who till the land. In this important respect, Russian society has not advanced beyond the feudal system of the Dark Ages.

Gov. Hughes's boom takes an inflation that is more than inconsiderable by the reception of his name at the ninth annual dinner of the Pennsylvania Society in New York. There were cheers for Pennsylvania's own candidate, P. C. Knox, but when Hughes's name was mentioned the enthusiasm of the audience was unbounded, and even the Governor of Pennsylvania, who was present, joined in the acclamation of Hughes as "our next President." When such solid men as the Pennsylvania Quakers get enthusiastic over Hughes, his candidacy ceases to be a negligible quantity.

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